

EDCompass newsletter

News and resources for educators using SMART products

smarttech.com/EDCsubscribe

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome



Tight school budgets can make it difficult to fund the purchase of technology products. However, a lot of information is available for exactly that reason

– to help you acquire the classroom technology needed to ensure your students are receiving the best education possible.

Did you know in the United States alone, more than 110,000 [grants](#) are awarded to schools each year? This issue identifies some of the funding avenues you can explore and provides tips to help you achieve your funding goals. You can also read how educators at a school in California overcame their funding obstacles, and in this month's product spotlight, learn about our latest SMART Board® interactive whiteboard system. It's ready for 3D content!

As always, if you have any comments about *EDCompass*™ newsletter or any of the information featured in this issue, we'd love to hear from you. Please e-mail us your feedback at newsletters@smarttech.com.

THIS MONTH'S POLL

How is your school spending education stimulus funding?

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

A Resourceful Approach to Grants



By Jocelyn Johnson

W.L. Parks Middle School
Atlanta, Georgia

One of the most exciting aspects of teaching today's students is the use of technology products. Classroom technology has proven to be a major factor in getting students to learn a variety of material, from the ABCs to challenging concepts, in many different environments. However, many state and local budget cuts have forced schools to reallocate funding normally set aside for classroom technology. Because of these massive budget cuts, teachers have

tried to find unique ways to gain access to classroom technology to augment and prepare students for 21st-century learning.

As a 20-year veteran educator who works in an urban school, I devised a plan of action to address the technology needs of my students. By doing research on the Internet based on the needs of my students and the school curriculum, I identified several funding opportunities. I applied for grants I felt would afford my students the best opportunity to learn using classroom technology. I also looked for grants that offered technology products that would enable my students to gain knowledge, solve problems and develop innovative skills.

I received funding from two of the three grants I applied for. The smallest grant I received allowed me to purchase USB flash drives, computer mouses and keyboards. The largest grant, issued through SMART Technologies, provided my students with a state-of-the-art classroom that addressed all of their technology needs. One of the grants I received also provided me with several SMART products, including a [SMART Board interactive whiteboard](#), [SMART Document Camera™](#), [SMART Notebook™ collaborative learning software](#) and [SMART Ideas™ concept-mapping software](#).

By applying for several technology grants, I have been able to bridge the digital divide by providing a technology-rich classroom that enables my students to perfect their technology skills.

SMART Notebook Lesson Activities



Find a comprehensive database of [K–12 lesson activities](#) on the SMART Exchange™ website. The activities, many of which are standards correlated, are created by classroom teachers and SMART’s team of curriculum resource developers.

Try one of the following SMART Notebook lesson activities in your next language arts, math or history class.

Whack-a-Mole

Students in all grades can participate in this fun activity where they throw a koosh ball at the moles on the SMART Board interactive whiteboard to a question in the file. This game can be customized for any subject matter. A video tutorial is available on [YouTube](#).

Prompt Practice

Fifth-grade language arts students can read different writing prompts to determine if they should write an expository, narrative or persuasive essay.

Let’s Talk Graphs!

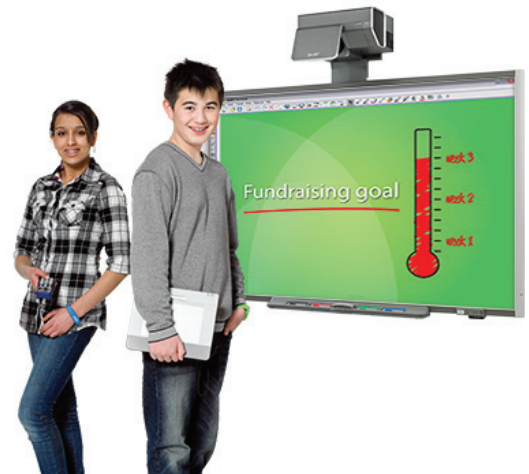
Seventh-grade math students can practice reading graphs.

Colonization

Eighth-grade history students can learn why European nations began to establish colonies in North America, and then participate in a map activity about colonial land claims.

Grants and Fundraising Resources at Your Fingertips

Finding funding for education technology products can be daunting. To make it easier, we have relaunched and revamped the grants and fundraising section on our website. This section features a variety of resources to help access the funding you need to get SMART products in your classroom and school. You’ll find information on what makes a winning grant application, learn how to mix and match grants, browse a list of national and regional funding providers, get fundraising ideas and guidance, and learn how other schools have created successful fundraising campaigns.



Visit our [website](#) to see which grant and fundraising opportunities fit your funding needs.

Fundraise for classroom technology

Fundraising can be fun and profitable. And getting your PTA involved is a good place to start. Many schools, particularly those with large, engaged PTAs, have held events such as auctions, bake sales, dinners, dances, walk-a-thons and read-a-thons to help overcome budget shortfalls.

Coming soon to our website is a fundraising toolkit, which will enable you to easily implement a school fundraising program. The toolkit includes an administrative guide and templates for progress charts, donation letters and media releases.

Here are a few professional organizations that can also provide you with assistance and ideas:

Digital Wish enables parents and the greater school community to donate funds or technology products to a specific classroom or school. Similar to a gift registry, this website allows teachers to build a wish list of the technology products they need for their classrooms. People can browse these online wish lists and make a donation or purchase items for a teacher or school. To find out how to register your classroom, visit the [Digital Wish website](#).

Adopt-A-Classroom programs are another source of funds for your school or district. Teachers can receive moral support and donations of up to \$500.

Visiting the [grants and fundraising forum](#) on the SMART Exchange is a great way to find out about grant opportunities, fundraising ideas and best practices for writing grant applications.

As a member of the Scholastic Book Fairs Profit and Rewards Program, you can host a Scholastic Book Fair, which supports your schools reading efforts and enables you to raise Scholastic Dollars™. You can redeem your Scholastic Dollars on items at your Book Fair and in the Scholastic Book Fairs School Resource Catalog, which features select SMART products. Please contact [Scholastic](#) for information on scheduling a book fair

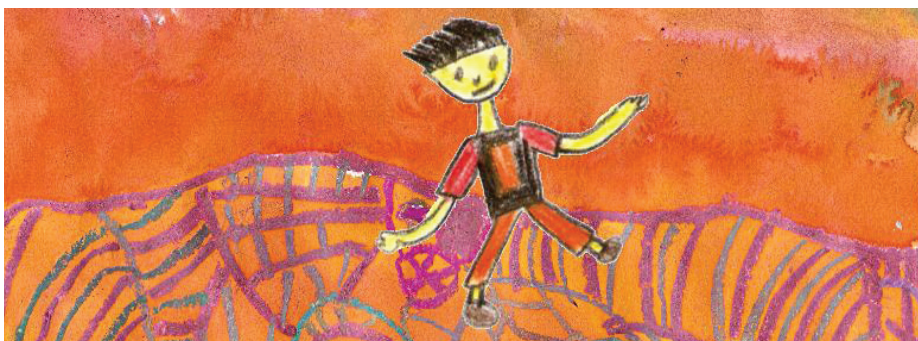
Tips to Obtain a Grant

A number of organizations provide funding for education technology. In this article, we offer a few tips for searching and applying for education grants.

- Determine what technology products your classroom or school needs and the amount of funding that will be required. Then look into the organizations that can provide funding for that amount.
- Ensure your request is aligned with the funding organization's mission statement. So, if you need funding for an early childhood program, approach an organization that focuses on exactly that.
- Clearly tie a desired product with a specific outcome. For example, indicate you need [SMART Board interactive whiteboards](#) and [SMART Response™ interactive response systems](#) for formative and summative assessments and to provide differentiated instruction to your students.
- Tie your request to a program that has a successful track record. If you would like to develop a new STEM curriculum program, for example, do it in conjunction with a nationally known program like the [Project Lead the Way, Invest in Innovation](#), First Robotics in the [United States](#) or [Canada](#) or [Physics First](#).
- Consider asking parent volunteers to help research funding opportunities and write grant applications. Alternatively, you can hire a third-party grant application writing service that has extensive experience in identifying prospective funding partners and crafting winning grant applications. The service should also provide mid-term and post-award evaluation of the project, which many private funders will require.
- Have a post-award plan and determine what costs might be associated with the project after the initial funding is complete. Private funders in particular make decisions based on whether the school or district has the ability and desire to sustain a project beyond its funding term.
- Determine the costs for ongoing training, professional development and maintenance. Projectors require lamp replacements, software may need to be upgraded and computers become obsolete in a relatively short period of time.

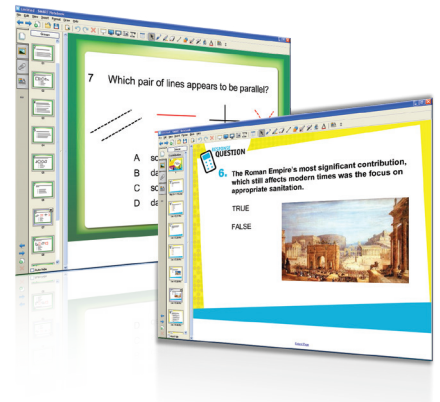
FEATURE ARTICLE

Finding Funding



Whether you're looking for a few unique fundraising ideas or searching for ways to make your grant applications stand out from the crowd, it always helps to have ideas and tips for raising money for technology purchases. [Read the full article.](#)

SMART Response Question Sets



Find a database of [SMART Response question sets](#) on the SMART Exchange website. The majority of the questions are correlated to state and provincial curriculum standards.

Try one of the following SMART Response question sets in your next science, history or math class.

Five Kingdoms of Living Things

Science students in grades 3–5 can test their knowledge of living things and classify them into five categories.

The Clause

Sixth-grade language arts students can learn about clauses and then test their ability to identify them.

Contributions of the Roman Empire

History students in grades 7–9 can analyze the long-lasting contributions of the Roman Empire.

Geometry: Congruent Segments and Angles

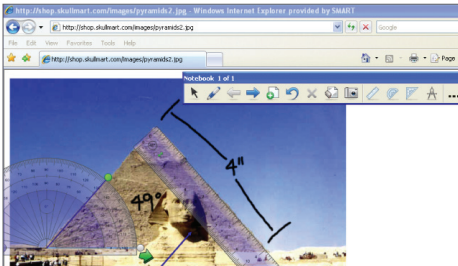
Math students in grades 9–12 can test their knowledge of congruent segments and angles.

Glaciers

Social studies students in grades 10–12 can test their knowledge of glaciers and how they are formed.

Jeff's SMART Notebook Tips

Each month in this column, you'll find a new tip from Jeff Taylor, Product Manager for SMART Notebook software. This month, Jeff explains how to use the Transparent Background tool. Learn how it can be used to measure the angles and sides of a pyramid:



1. Open a web browser and search for an image of a pyramid
2. Open SMART Notebook software and click the Measurement Tools icon found in the toolbar. A floating toolbar will appear on your page. Click and insert the protractor and ruler from that toolbar.
3. Click the Transparent Background icon found in the SMART Notebook toolbar. This action will make your SMART Notebook page disappear but you will maintain access to your ruler, protractor and the SMART Notebook toolbar, which should now appear on the web page you opened in step 1.
4. Drag your ruler to the pyramid on your web page and measure the sides of the pyramid. Do the same with the protractor to measure the angles and record the information right on the web page, using the pen tool found in the toolbar.
5. Click the Transparent Background icon to return to your SMART Notebook file. The annotations you made will appear on your SMART Notebook page, and you can continue to interact with the measurements throughout your lesson.

The Transparent Background is offered with SMART Notebook software 10.6. Download the latest version [here](#).

Get More for Less

From now until October 31, 2010, your school or district can receive a discount when you purchase 10 or more **SMART Podium™ ID422w interactive pen displays**. The ID422 is our widescreen model, offering 20 percent more workspace than interactive displays with standard aspect ratios.



Contact your local authorized SMART reseller to learn more.

More Content on the SMART Exchange

You can now find more than 250 SMART Table™ activities on the SMART Exchange. Created by teachers and well-known publishers such as **Pronk**, **Brown Publishing Network** and **Waterford Mediaworks**, the activities cover all core subjects for pre-kindergarten through to third grade and have been designed to support specific curriculum standards.

We've also recently added SMART Notebook lesson activities that support two users and SMART Notebook Math Tools lesson activities. Visit the **SMART Exchange** to explore the more than 40,000 learning resources. New content is added every week.

SMART SHOWCASE SCHOOL PROFILE

California School Overcomes Funding Obstacles



Finding extra funding can be a daunting task for any school in the best of times, but what about when the country is mired in a once-in-a-lifetime recession – one that brought your state to the brink of financial ruin? [Read the full article](#).

The 600i – Generation Excellent

With the first three generations of the **SMART Board 600i interactive whiteboard system**, we focused on bringing you an integrated system that is convenient, flexible and easy to use.

Well, our newest version of the 600i has all of these benefits and more! The fourth generation 600i features new advancements and welcome improvements to the system's projector and extended control panel to make the 600i more interactive, environmentally-friendly and accessible.



Get ready for 3D

Add a new dimension to teaching and learning – literally! The new 600i is 3D-ready. This added capability is available thanks to the system's short-throw SMART UF65 projector, which is compatible with Texas Instruments' 3D DLP Link technology and the growing ecosystem of third-party 3D content. Just don't forget your 3D glasses!

Go green

While your students are learning to save the environment, they'll also be using an interactive whiteboard system that's environmentally friendly. That's because SMART has designed the 600i to reduce energy consumption and other negative environmental impacts.

So, what makes the 600i green? The SMART UF65 projector is designed to draw less than 1W of power in standby mode, which is less than a quarter of the energy used by an average night light.* The system's projector lamp also lasts for up to 5,000 hours in economy mode, which is 1,000 more hours than the previous generation 600i.

Extend accessibility

One of the benefits of using an integrated system is the extended control panel, a central hub that enables you to control volume and switch between connected multimedia devices. The new 600i's extended control panel has been relocated, so it mounts to the interactive whiteboard bezel rather than the wall. This change not only makes installation easier, but it also ensures all your controls are more convenient to access. As well, we've improved the USB functionality, adding a built-in USB port and hub, so you can easily connect USB drives and keyboards to the system and switch between two connected computers.

The fourth-generation 600i will begin shipping in September – stay tuned for the announcement!

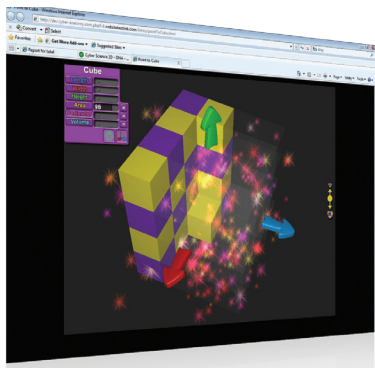
*Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, [Standby Power](#)

Fast Facts



- **3D-ready** – Demonstrate complex spatial concepts using third-party 3D content. The short-throw SMART UF65 projector is 3D-ready, accurately displaying 3D content to students wearing 3D glasses.
- **Widescreen option** – Choose the 600i system in 16:10 aspect ratio, which provides 20 percent more workspace than a standard-sized interactive whiteboard. This option includes the SMART UF65w projector, which has a WXGA (1280 x 800) resolution.
- **Improved extended control panel** – Control your 600i easily. The extended control panel gives you access to the power button, volume control, video input selection, additional USB port and audio switching for a guest laptop.
- **Brilliant image quality** – Experience videos and still images that are bright, crisp and visible at the back of the classroom. The SMART UF65 delivers 2,000 lumens and a 2,000:1 contrast ratio at a XGA (1040 x 768) resolution.
- **Alert broadcast system** – Receive important messages instantly. Principals and other administrators can display alert messages on multiple fourth-generation 600i systems at the same time.
- **SMART Notebook software included** – Create and deliver dynamic lessons using the award-winning [SMART Notebook collaborative learning software](#).

What's the deal with 3D?



When you hear the word 3D, your mind probably conjures up an image of a 1950s movie theater filled with viewers wearing paper-rimmed glasses with blue and red lenses. With the recent blockbuster success of 3D movies like *Avatar*, the popularity of 3D is back in full force.

But for this technology to move from the movie theater to the classroom, more sophisticated glasses – and more engaging content – are required. We've got a couple of examples of how 3D content can add a new dimension to teaching and learning:

- **Math** – Make geometry come to life with a 3D lesson using shapes like prisms, spheres and cylinders. Students can manipulate the size and measure the volume of the various shapes.
- **Biology** – Enable students to rotate, disassemble and label a 3D DNA strand to increase their understanding of such a complex concept
- **Language arts** – Use word cubes that can be rotated and flipped to create new sentences, practice punctuation and explore synonyms and antonyms

Up Next

Watch for the next issue that puts the spotlight on special education. You can pick up tips and learn new best practices from your peers.

Ask Ted

We chatted with Ted Shuter, Product Manager for the fourth-generation 600i, to find out what teachers are saying about this new system and learn about its 3D-ready capabilities and other advances.

EDCompass You first showcased the new 600i during ISTE 2010 in Denver, Colorado. What are teachers' reactions to our newest integrated system, and what are they most excited about?

Ted Reactions have been very positive. We had a lot of teachers come to our booth to see the new 600i, and they were enthusiastic about its new features, especially its support for 3D content. We had quite a few conversations with teachers who were excited about the possibility of incorporating 3D content into their lessons on physics, history and even art.

EDCompass The 600i is one of the first SMART products to be 3D ready. Why is this an important feature for today's classrooms?

Ted Studies by Texas Instruments have shown a 30–35 percent increase in test scores when material is in 3D versus 2D. Each day, more 3D content becomes available. A 3D-ready projector will ensure you have the right technology to take advantage of what 3D content adds to the classroom experience.

EDCompass Where can teachers find 3D content to use with the new 600i?

Ted There is a wide variety of video, animations and interactive 3D content from companies such as Google, Designmate, Cyber-Anatomy and many more. You can find 3D content for most subjects and grades.

EDCompass Besides it being 3D ready, there are new eco-friendly features to the system's projector. What impact can an environmentally-friendly projector have on a classroom or school's power consumption?

Ted Devices like computers and projectors consume a small amount of power even when they are turned off. With hundreds of thousands of projectors in schools today, reducing the amount of power consumed when they are turned off will help reduce our impact on the environment.

EDCompass What other benefits does the new 600i offer classrooms?

Ted The 600i lamp life has been extended by another 1,000 hours to a total of 5,000 hours. And with the new alert broadcast system, administrators can now broadcast important messages to one or more fourth-generation 600i systems from any web browser. We also moved the extended control panel so it mounts to the interactive whiteboard, making the installation easier, especially if you want to attach the system to our height-adjustable wall mount.

